



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 30, 2023

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports 

SUBJECT: Grow Your Own Support Staff Grant Application Feedback

Last week, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced awardees for the Future Proud Michigan Educator (PME) Grow Your Own (GYO) staff programming grants, which will support the staffing needs of intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local education agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies. By providing funding for school employees to seek certification or additional endorsements, GYO staff grants will help to ensure that all students have access to a well-prepared teacher.

There will be an application period for a second round of GYO grants, anticipated to be in the second half of June. To support LEAs and ISDs that applied for and did not receive funds in the first round and any others that may wish to apply in the second round, including those that did not apply initially, MDE offers the following feedback on applications not funded in round one. This and additional information about the Future PME grant is available on the [GYO Grant Website](#).

Common errors that resulted in unsuccessful applications in the first round include:

- **Unqualified applicant.** Applicants must represent local education agencies (LEAs), traditional public school districts and/or public school academies, or intermediate school districts (ISDs). Individual teachers cannot be applicants.
- **Missing or incomplete partnership agreements.** Applicants were required to submit signed partnership agreements with every Michigan-approved educator preparation provider (EPP) selected in the application.
- **Missing or incomplete budget information.** Applicants were required to complete a budget table itemizing expenses to be covered by the grant, keyed to specific budget codes, and to provide explanations for each budget item. Applications were rated lower if they included blank or non-specific budget

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function explanations or totals for an expense that did not provide a breakdown of the total into corresponding object code cells.

- **Ineligible EPP partner.** Applicants were required to identify an approved Michigan EPP to provide coursework and training for teacher candidates. Further, the identified EPP partner must offer approved preparation programming in the areas in which teacher candidates are to receive licensure. [The Directory of Educator Preparation Providers and Programs provides a list of Michigan approved preparation providers.](#)
- **Not Providing Information in the Format Required.** Applicants were directed to only upload partnership agreements. Documents other than partnership agreements that were uploaded to supplement other parts of the application were not reviewed or considered with the application.
- **Inadequate demonstration of need.** Applicants were required to provide data on the supply and demand of educators specific to their local educational community. Further, applicants were required to demonstrate that the proposed grow your own program was aligned to address that need.

A webinar will be scheduled to support applicants for the next round of funding. Information regarding the webinar will be shared with the round two grant application announcement.

Please direct questions to the Office of Educator Excellence at MDE-PME@Michigan.gov.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments